THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While LPG distributors are under instructions to supply refills within 24 hours of the booking, supplies are at times made with delay for reasons like transportation bottlenecks, labour problems, civil disturbances etc.

(c) and (d) Supply of LPG refills by M|s. Prem Nath Motors, New Delhi is normal at present; however, in the recent past the distributors had some backlog due to labour problem, traffic restrictions, strike by lorry owners etc.

Thermal Power Projects

96. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power projects cleared State-wise by Central Government during the last three years, what are the details about the capacity generation, amount investment and whether all are in public sector or any one in private sector;

(b) the number of the above sanctioned projects which are gas based and coal based separately and the quantity of gas and coal allotted to them;

(c) what is the all India average cost per unit production of thermal and hydro electric power and whether there are any plans to bring down the cost per unit;

(d) what are the factors responsible for transmission loss and whether theft is one of the vital factors; and

(e) what is the latest available plant load factor percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The desired information relating to the thermal power projects approved by Government during the last three years is given in the Statement annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 3]

(c) The All India average cost, per unit of production of thermal and hydro-electric power for the year 1984-85, in respect of 15 major State Electricity Boards, is 46.98 paise and 8.14 paise respectively. Guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards for improving operational efficiency and productivity. A comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme has been sanctioned to cover 34 thermal stations with a Central outlay of Rs. 500 crores. This is expected to result in additional generation and reduction in consupmption of coal and oil. A Committee has also been set up to make recommendations on formulation of a programme for renovation and modernization of hydro-electric power stations.

(d) The factors responsible for transmission and distribution losses include technical aspects, defective metres, theft and pilferage of energy.

(e) The All India plant load factor of thermal power stations in the country for the year 1986-87 is 53.2 per cent.

Contract by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

97. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited has paid huge amount of advance sums towards the deal with M|s. M.A.N. of West Germany and WMI during the current year 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details of amounts remitted to West Germany;

(c) what is the nature of guarantee provided to NLC by the said firm in West Germany; and

(d) what are the details of the contract between the Parties?